

# **DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL**

## **EVENTS REPORT - 7**

### **11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

#### **DATCHET POST OFFICE**

Just before Christmas, the Outreach PO received delivery of Covid-compliant Perspex screens and intended to reopen. These had become necessary due to the number of people visiting the PO without PPE masks. The Outreach was due to open on Tuesday 15 and 22 December. Unfortunately, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the computer equipment failed and the Outreach had to close without conducting any business. Then on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a combination of Tier 4 restrictions and delays in replacing the computer equipment meant that the Outreach was unable to open.

**Action:** The next proposed opening is 12 January 2021 which I will confirm as soon as I am able.

#### **ELLIS JOURNEY 2021**

##### **Sunday 4 July 2021**

Organisation of the Datchet part of the Ellis Journey will soon begin in earnest. We hope that, by July, the vaccination rollout will be well underway, but any plans will have to take into consideration that Covid restrictions may still prevail, requiring social distancing, face masks, hand sanitiser, and QR Code/registration, etc.

It is important for this unique event to be held on the central Village Greens to create the historic atmosphere it demands. Road closure will make it easier to safeguard participants and visitors, allowing more space for them to spread out, to queue safely outside local businesses, and maintain social distancing.

**Action:** To begin the road closure process, I will be writing to residents and businesses who may be affected by a Sunday road closure and, depending on preferences, I will approach RBWM for comment. The layout of the event will be determined by whether or not the road can be closed.

#### **CHRISTMAS WINDOW DECORATION COMPETITION**

##### **Prize-giving Wednesday 23 December 2020**

The only DPC community celebration event that was able to take place this year leading up to Christmas was the competition for the best-dressed Christmas window. All judges delivered their final choices by Tuesday 22 December and winners were announced on Datchet Eye. Prizes were awarded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> but without a presentation ceremony so as not to encourage gatherings. First prize of a day's boat hire supplied by Kris Cruisers and a bottle of Champagne from WVL went to Flowerz. Two runner-up prizes of a bottle of Champagne each from WVL went to The Bridge Café and Nibbles.

#### **SANTA'S SLEIGH RIDE**

##### **Wednesday 23 December 2020**

As we are all aware, the rapid increase of Coronavirus restrictions from Tier 2 to Tier 3, then Tier 4 in a short space of time, resulted in the cancellation of Santa's sleigh ride around the village.

Anticipation of the event seemed to create a feel-good factor, with a good response on Datchet Eye, and a general air of excitement particularly among families with young children. Although it was disappointing, residents accepted the cancellation as a necessary outcome of the increased restrictions. The horse & carriage company, Santa and the singing elves were also disappointed not to be able to do the event but they are keen to be involved in future events and very interested to do a Santa's Sleigh Ride next Christmas.

**Cllr Allen Corcoran**